

Oxford (5)
Eng. Hist. Topog. vol. 11.
TRANSLATION

Of a late Celebrated

ORATION.

OCCASIONED

By a Libel, entitled, *Remarks on*
Doctor K——G's Speech.

With a seasonable

INTRODUCTION.

———*Inter silvas Academi quærere Verum*
HOR.

Ab! B—nth—m! B—rt—n! ab!
Vide DUNCIAD.



L O N D O N:

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A N
O R A T I O N

Delivered, APRIL 13, 1749.

I N T H E

Theatre at OXFORD,

On the DEDICATION of

The RADCLIFF Library.

W. K.

*Suscepto negotio, majus mihi quiddam proposui, in
quo meam in Rempublicam voluntatem populus
perspicere posset. CICERO.*

A N

ORATION

Delivered April 18, 1742

IN THE

Theatre at OXFORD

On the Dedication

The Radcliffe Library

W. E.

By the Rev. John Radcliffe, M.A. Fellow of the University of Oxford, and Librarian of the Radcliffe Library.



INTRODUCTION.

SPERO me impetrare posse ab
eruditorum omnium æquitate, ut
nequis, me invito, hanc oratio-
nem in sermonem patriam vertat.

I wish I could lay any effectual Com-
mands upon my Countrymen, not to
translate the preceding Passage into our
Mother-tongue. But, I believe, it will
be soon allowed, that however I may
desire, I can have no reason to *expect* a
Compliance. And if the Favour I ask,
with

with regard to this Passage, is requested in the very Passage itself with regard to the whole Oration, surely, the *English* Reader will not think the Translator entitled to a Courtesy, which he has refused to his Author: For indeed, the same *British* Spirit and Love of Liberty, which inclined him to gratify the first and best Men of the Age in forming his Oration, urges me to disobey the Commands of one of their illustrious Number (I need not tell you, I mean himself) in translating it.

For Liberty, that lovely Deity, was willing that her own *British* Sentiments might grace her own *British* Language: And, I own, while Liberty inspired me, I forgot that * *Minerva*, I forgot — that *King* was unwilling.

* Tu nihil invita dices faciesve *Minerva*.

HOR.

But

But I remembered all the Misfortunes and the desperate State of my Country ; once flourishing in War and in Peace ; and renounced for her Power and Affluence, for her Freedom and every glorious Attribute : I beheld a sinking, deluded, abject, venal, *desponding* People ; thus dwindled from a noble Species of *British* Free-men, and, I will add, transforming into the wretchedest Monsters, *British* Slaves : Nay, transforming themselves, unconquered, uncompelled.

For there are many States, who are neither wholly insignificant in the Number of their People, the Extent of their Territory, their Interest with foreign Princes, or the Abilities and Virtues of their own, whom yet we might easily resist ; and who, far from awing us with the Sword of Conquest, would only awaken our Spirit ; and who would soon fly from our Coast, like *Cæsar* of old, would we but harden back into Men. For my own part, I blush for all those, who, while they nobly defy Giants, at
the

the same time crouch voluntarily to Pigmies; and indeed if I am to fall, let me be knocked down by a Thunderbolt, and not by a Jordan. But how many of our Countrymen (if such can be our Countrymen) submit to little and low Persons; who found their private Happiness on the public Misery, and who thrive and flourish as this declining Country decays? These Men, reinforced from Time to Time with unembarrassed Deserters from their Country, triumph on uncontrolled; while one Man is hired, another is scribbled, another is talked, another is preached, another is *prudenced* (if I may so speak) into passive Obedience; nay, into active Obedience.

But let me stop short in my career, and, with the Noble Author of a late Treatise, have recourse to Imagination.

“ If I was at the Theatre, (says he)
 “ when a Tragedy was to be presented
 “ of some Master-poet, in which Characters and Manners were strongly
 “ marked, the Plot artfully perplexed,
 “ yet

“ yet naturally unfolded, Incident pro-
 “ ducing Incident, as necessarily as Cause
 “ produces Effect: If the Characters
 “ thus marked, were a Prince, who
 “ was alternately the Sport of his own
 “ Passions, and the Vassal of the Factions
 “ he was surrounded with; at Variance
 “ with the Heir, because sensible of his
 “ Rights, and rather more popular than
 “ himself: A haughty, vain, aspiring,
 “ brutish General: One Minister as ob-
 “ stinate and headstrong, as ignorant and
 “ assuming; another as officious and ver-
 “ satile, as prodigal and corrupt; and
 “ both endeavouring only to establish
 “ their own Power and Influence at the
 “ Expence of King and People: If the
 “ Scope of the Fable was to shew how
 “ the Rivals, in bidding against each
 “ other, might traffick away the Wealth,
 “ Honour and Dignity of their Coun-
 “ try: And the Division of a Royal
 “ House, and the Downfall of a re-
 “ nowned Commonwealth, were the tre-
 “ mendous Catastrophe: I own so pro-
 “ bable a Fiction would become Autho-

“ rity to me ; and I should make no
 “ Scruple to avow, that similar Circum-
 “ stances in real Life, would very pro-
 “ bably produce similar Events.”

But as I was musing on a Parallel af-
 fecting Scene, that might present itself in
 real Life, Liberty smiled, or seemed to
 smile, that while, like her, I glowed
 with Indignation ; at the same time, far
 from drooping with Despair, I rejoiced
 and hoped ; like her, elated with a plea-
 sing Prospect of the future.

For Liberty loves only the sanguine Vo-
 tary, and grieves for those degenerate
 Sons, who impiously despair of Relief ;
 and who deservedly wear those Chains
 which they dare not even *hope* to shake
 off : For only the Former promote the
 Cause of Liberty, since whoever is con-
 fident of Success, will readily venture his
 Fortune, his Person, his Life ; while the
 Latter, dismayed with the horrid Image
 of certain Destruction, frightens, nay, ar-
 gues himself into Pusillanimity, and in-
 gloriously

gloriously remains inactive: And indeed if the Brave *may not* obtain Success, the Desponding *certainly will not*, if they do not obtain it by the Labours of others; for, as to themselves, “ All Hell is in “ them, and they in Hell.”

Besides, could we, in our Turn, ruin Luxury, who, our great Author shews, has ruined us, we should yet continue unable to recover from our present Distress, until we had shaken off all unmanly Despair: For the Man cursed with Despondency, far from assisting with his Fortune or his Life, would startle at a free Expression, would turn pale at a meer Toast.

No wonder then, if our great Orator is not only the Favourite of the Muses, the Graces, the Virtues, but the Darling of Liberty, and all the Sons of Liberty: For while he hopes and pants for Freedom himself, he pours the same Spirit by his Eloquence into others; and whenever he makes a Friend to his Country, he

makes a Friend to himself. If we admire the Knowledge of Books, accompanied with that of Men; the finest Learning, adorned with the brightest Genius and perfect Politeness; if we admire any human Excellence, how shall we esteem the Man who possesses them all? How shall we love the Man who devotes them all to his Country? What an antient *Roman* in Sense, as well as in Sound! what an antient *Briton*! what an *Oxonian*!—But I forbear, since his Merit deserves Panegyrick equal to the Praises, with which he adorns the Merit of others.

Yet if Eloquence ever preserved a Nation; if *Tully* vanquished a *Cataline*; if *Demosthenes* withstood the Power and Fortune of *Philip*; surely, in these Times, our *British* Orator must be dear to every *Briton*. For indeed Eloquence, and a general Display of Truth, seems to me the proper Refuge of *Englishmen*; since I am perswaded, that the present Remissness of our Countrymen, is owing to the Delusions and Prejudices which are instilled
and

and cherished in too many weak, though well-meaning Minds, which may be extirpated however by the Sword of Eloquence; and that it does not arise solely from pecuniary Corruption, which cannot perhaps overflow a whole Nation; for what Minister could give every Man his Price, supposing every Man had one *? Nor do I believe, that public Spirit is wholly extinct in the Breasts of *Englishmen*; or that we have declined from the very Summit of Virtue into the Vale of Vice: Were this our Character, inevitable Destruction would follow; and, far from enjoying, we should not even deserve a *Patriot Prince*. But on the other Hand, methinks, the very Causes of our Distress (our Delusions and Prejudices) point out our Deliverance: For though an abandoned People cannot be easily reformed, yet weak and deluded Men may be undeceived and enlightened, and may at length be guided, by the Power of

* In Allusion to an *immortal* Apothegm of the late Lord Orford.

Eloquence, into the Paths of Truth and Virtue.

It would be therefore surprizing, if our Countrymen were not concerned, that they were not permitted to peruse this excellent Oration in their native Language. In this our great Patriot certainly judged wrong, or committed an Error. For why indeed should he refuse those any thing, for whom only he bears to live, for whom he would dare to die?

But this is not all : It is the Fate and Glory of our great Author, to have the same Enemies with his Country, with the University, as well as the same Friends. Hence every temporizing Dunce presumes to scribble at him. Hence you find in one dull *Tutor*, that Cant and Gossiping seldom to be met with, even in an old Nurse ; in another Pedagogue, that Scurrility and Scandal not to be paralleled in the common Stews, and at no Time to be discharged, even upon *Burton* himself. And hence that doughty
Performance,

Performance, entitled, *Remarks on Doctor K——g's Speech*, which misrepresents every noble Paragraph, and degrades the Stile of that excellent Oration, down to its own most wretched Dialect.

I cannot therefore refrain from publishing the following Translation, which, I flatter myself, will be a sufficient Answer to all that Vice or Dulness can perpetrate against our immortal Patriot, and will afford an Example of what he asserts himself, That whoever rivals the great Executors of *Radcliff*, cannot fail to conciliate the Love and Esteem of all Mankind; not of his Countrymen only, or those to whom he is linked by the Ties of Friendship, but even of those to whom he is only known by Fame and Reputation.

Besides, his Inclinations in Favour of his Country, will be still more conspicuous to the People, agreeable to the noble Sentiment in his Motto. For every *Briton* may now understand this noble
Defence

Defence of public Virtue, and may have the Satisfaction of worshipping Liberty, in a known Tongue : While, if the City of *Westminster* has been contemned and insulted, this will remind her, that the most illustrious Society on Earth had before received barbarian Indignities, was even impiously threatened with Destruction. But our noble Metropolis has shewn the most laudable Indignation in *her Actions*. Shall then any infamous Scribler asperse this pious Son of the University, only because he *complains* ?

I have not yet made any Mention of a very favourite, and, I flatter myself, a very numerous Part of my Readers ; I mean the *fair* Votaries of Liberty ;

The last, not least in my Affection.

And, indeed, the Ladies in general will acknowledge I have been employed in their Service ; since, in translating Doctor *King*, I have gratified the reigning Passion of their Sex, which is universally allowed to be *The Love of Oratory*.

After

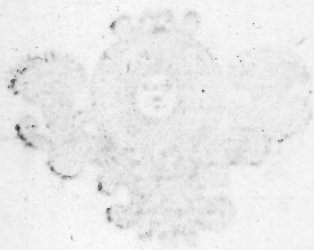
After all, it may, perhaps, afford some Entertainment to take a View of Truth, as she appears in a simple Dress, and unattended with the Blaze and Lustre of *Roman* Oratory : As the Sun over-powers the Eye, if we look at it in the Heavens, while its Image in a River may be contemplated for ever.

Jan. 15, 1749-50.



C

T O



T O T H E

Most Noble and Illustrious

C H A R L E S Duke of *Beaufort*,
E D W A R D Earl of *Oxford* and *Mortimer*,
S I R W A L T E R W A G S T A F F B A G O T, Bart.
S I R W A T K I N S W I L L I A M W Y N N, Bart.

A N D

E D W A R D S M Y T H, Esq;
The E X E C U T O R S of
J O H N R A D C L I F F, M.D.

This O R A T I O N
IS INSCRIBED,

*With the most ardent Wishes for their
Prosperity and Success,*

By their most humble Servant,

WILLIAM KING.

TO THE

Most Noble and Magnificent

CHARLES Duke of Cornwall

Baron and Lord of Cornwall and Devon

Walter Walsingham Esq.

St. William William Wynn Esq.

AND

JOHN SMYTH Esq.

of the University of

JOHN ANDREW

THE ORATION

IS INSCRIBED

TO THE

JOHN ANDREW

JOHN ANDREW

JOHN ANDREW

JOHN ANDREW



A N
O R A T I O N, &c.



THIS Task was assigned me at a Time, when I was very little inclined to undertake it, for I was afraid that an infirm and forgetful old Man, like me, now past my Climacteric Year, might be unable to produce any thing, either worthy of your Learning, Gentlemen of the University, or the Politeness of this illustrious Assembly; I am, however, attracted hither by that Indulgence, with which you have always received me, and by the Desire of some
of

of the * greatest and best Men of the Age, which, of itself, is so powerful a Motive, that I shall now wave all Excuse on Account of Infirmary or Age.

I desire therefore you will grant me this last Favour. Since I lay no Claim to that Species of Oratory, which thunders in the Pulpit, at the Bar, and in the Senate ; which serves so well the Purposes of Self-interest, procuring immense Wealth, or preparing a Passage to all public Honours ; it will be necessary that I should chiefly endeavour (with your Leave) to display that Spirit of Liberty, which has never left me from my earliest Youth to the present Moment ; which never fails to breathe into me the Love of my Country, and a Veneration for the University ; and which is wont to assist

* Doctor *Radcliff*'s Executors, who have since expressed their Approbation of this Speech ; than which nothing could happen more agreeable to me, nothing that I esteem a greater Honour, or a greater Protection.

all

all my Endeavours, and to inspire and regulate all my Orations, whatsoever they be.

Nor do I think any Man qualified either to chastise the Guilty with just Reproof, or Reward the Virtuous with just Praise; but he who is steady in his Principles, and honest from his Heart in his Dispositions; who has at all times dared to think with Fortitude and with Constancy, to speak with Spirit, yet with Decency; who asks nothing of our mighty Rulers, hopes for nothing, and, conscious of Truth and Virtue, fears nothing.

For there are Men, who grieve when the Crimes of another are censured, as if they were guilty of the same Crimes themselves; while they take no Delight in the Praises of another, however justly he is celebrated, as if no Praises were applicable to their own Manners or Actions.

For Panegyric, though a very com-
plaisant Kind of Oratory, attacks the
Unworthy,

Unworthy, the Envious, the Ungrateful, the Avaricious, nay, all those, who are unlike the Persons, who are celebrated; except, indeed, such, whose sacred Ears are never violated with the Mention of their Infamy, or whose Minds are rendered callous by the Tyranny of evil Habits.

To Day too, upon this solemn Occasion, while we are prepared with all festival Rights to celebrate *Radcliff's* Praises, while we commemorate his immortal Endowments conferred upon us, it must happen, that those very affluent and wealthy Men, those Physicians, Lawyers, Priests, Reverend and Right Reverend, who are indebted for every Thing to this genial University, and yet give nothing back in return, will perceive themselves censured for their neglected Duty.

Indeed, they will have Reason to perceive it; and yet I am neither eager for invective on the one Hand, nor do I expect, on the other, that those who equal
the

the Great *Radcliff* in Possessions and Estate, should rival him in the Gifts and Virtues of Nature and Genius. It is enough for the Sons of *Oxford*, if they are grateful to so beneficent a Parent. Let them give what they can afford to give; let them give a Tenth; let them give a Twentieth; at least, in the present unfavourable Circumstances of the University, let them give their Aid and Assistance, and in our Annals they shall be recorded and proclaimed the most kind and liberal Benefactors.

For he must have a great, an exalted, and, I shall almost say, a godlike Mind, who aspires to emulate *Radcliff*, and to obtain immortal and everlasting Glory, by the Imitation of a Liberality and Piety so incredible: A Man like him is not born once in a hundred Years; a private Man, like him, not in six hundred Years. Who, in the Name of Heaven, would not think that Building, that immense and magnificent Library, an imperial Structure, or the Work of Princes, were it erected

D

formerly?

formerly? When Kings were munificent, when Friends to Letters, when even they themselves were Proficients in the polite Arts; when they could understand, that by raising such a Monument they conferred a Benefit upon Mankind, and that they procured a great Advantage to themselves, when they gave to learned and worthy Men.

But I am of Opinion, that this, and all the other superb Donations of *Radcliff*, will appear to you still more laudable, since all the Money, that is expended (not expended, however, rashly or at random, but with the utmost Judgment and Discretion) in these sumptuous Buildings, in a College of the University, in the noble Provision for the *Oxonians*, who are directed to pass five Years in travelling, was, in no manner, acquired or increased by Thefts and Frauds, or the basest Prostitutions, or iniquitous Stock-jobbing, or *unembarrassed* Hypocrisy and Snares for Legacies, nor yet by Plunder and Rapine, or cruel Piracy and War; but

but well and honestly gained, by Cares and Labours, by Virtue and Learning, and the Exercise of that glorious Art, which removes the Sickneſſes and Diſorders of Men, and which, for its Uſe and Excellence, all People, Kings and Nations have been willing to conſecrate to God, as to its Author.

Nor is it at all a Wonder, that this ſurprizing Phyſician was enriched with ſuch extenſive Poſſeſſions, to whom all Mankind reſorted with Gifts, imploring Health and Relief from him as from a Deity. For he ~~not only~~ had ranged all the Compaſs of Learning, that relates to this Science of Phyſick, but at the ſame Time he diſplayed a certain Diſcernment and Faculty of Mind, as well as ſo wonderful a Sagacity in diſcovering Diſtempers (whether from Nature or Learning) that he infallibly cured all, who were not incurable; and beſides, while ſome Virtues were, perhaps, common to all other eminent Phyſicians of his Age, as Erudition, Wiſdom, Humanity, Hoſpitality; this

was, certainly, peculiar to him, that he always prophesy'd what Disease would prove mortal *. Add to all this; his Heart was so open and sincere, that, averse to temporizing, he never had recourse to Diffimulation or Imposture; never would wheedle or flatter any Patient, not even a King; but always acted with Truth and with Sincerity. From whence it naturally followed, that his Integrity was every where conspicuous; and that they, whom he attended, settled their Family and domestic Affairs in a calm and serene Manner, provided for their Children, their Neighbours, their Friends, while their Reason continued; and whether the Disease was cured, or proved fatal, the illustrious Physician was highly applauded. Wherefore, not in the Opinion of the Vulgar only, but in the Sense of the

* I do not dwell upon this Head, as the learned Gentleman, who spoke before me, and who is himself a careful and experienced Physician, has elegantly descanted upon it, and represented to us how acutely our *Radi:iff* pierced into the Nature of all Diseases.

greatest

greatest Personages, he was esteemed the first Man in his Profession and in his Country ; and though the most skilful and learned Physicians have flourished, and do at present flourish in our *Britannia*, yet it is allowed, I believe, by all, that no one whatsoever has equalled the great *Radcliff* in Fame, nor will equal him hereafter.

But both his Fame and Glory, and Fortune, and all his Hopes, this best good Man offered up to Piety ; Piety, who alone dictated that honest Will, which he left behind him, and which has made the Nation and the University his Heir. By which it happens, that since he ceased to heal the Body, he has prepared for his Countrymen, like the famous *Egyptian* King, the * Physick of the Soul. By which it happens, that his Life, (though laudable beyond Expression) was less illustrious than his Death ; except in one

* *Ψυχῆς ἰατρικὴν*, an Inscription on the *Ptolomean* Library.

Particular, which I shall soon hint at. Nay more, it is, perhaps, his greatest Praise, that he warily took Care, that his Will should remain firm and inviolable for ever, by chusing these approved Patriots, who will religiously observe the Intention of the deceased; and by providing that Persons with the same Dispositions shall always succeed.

How wisely he provided that his generous Designs might be answered, is, indeed, known to us all; nor will any one differ from me in Opinion, who views the noble Persons in whom *Radcliff's* great Trust is reposed, and who have had the Care of erecting the Library, and of dedicating it to Day. What Men! What Fellow-Subjects! What Senators! how illustrious, how weighty, how active! how———but I dare not, while they are present at my Speech, offend their Modesty by repeating their surpassing Virtues before them. Of which you yourselves, Gentlemen of the University, have already given the greatest Testimony by
your

your universal Suffrages and Decrees. It is proper, however, to say something for the Sake of Emulation; were there any like these inimitable Men, who had cultivated a superior Understanding with all liberal Learning, and who were besides adorned with the utmost Integrity and Elegancy of Life, all the social Inclinations, and a Sweetness of Manners, and, what crowns all other Virtues, a singular Love for their Country, and Affection for the University; they must, in like manner, attain the Height of Glory and Dignity, which is the noblest Object of Desire; and conciliate the Favour and Love of all Mankind, not of their Countrymen only, or of those to whom they are linked by the Ties of Friendship, but of the very Persons to whom they are only known by Fame and Reputation.

It would therefore be surprizing, if the University were not concerned, that these wise and faithful Men are not allowed the Liberty of chusing their own Librarian. In this Affair our great *Radcliff* certainly
judged

judged wrong or committed an Error. For why, why should he not confide entirely in those, to whom he delivered so many Estates, so much Money and his whole Inheritance? But, indeed, this Topic is not agreeable to me, nor shall I add a Word more on a Subject so invidious. Yet, after all, no Objection, on this Account, to the great *Radcliff* can alter the Opinion you entertain of his Liberality and Piety.

But now, while we admire that superb and splendid Library, give me leave, illustrious Gentlemen, to mention your Agent in this great Undertaking, I mean * the most famous Architect; whose consummate Skill both this very Work and the other sumptuous Edifices, as well publick as private, which he has raised in *London*, in *Cambridge*, and in other celebrated parts of our Island, sufficiently point out and display. But, as for me, I love the Man, for he deserves to be be-

* *James Gibbs.*

loved ;

loved; for he was formerly my Host, and one, whom I knew to be the most humane and friendly Person living, and not only versed in Architecture, but in the Knowledge of all Antiquity, and Learning in general.

I shall say nothing of the lasting Advantage of this Donation, or of the great Consequences that arise from public Libraries: For as this Subject has often been handled before in the accurate and polite Orations of the ingenious Persons, who speak the anniversary Praises of *Bodley*; so the same Gentlemen will often expatiate on this Topick for the Future. And because it is plain, that, without these Succours, we could never have weeded out of our Manners the Savageness of the antient *Britons*, the *Saxons*, or *Normans*, nor could we bear up against that of other Races. And besides, were it not for this single Circumstance, not only the Histories of all Nations, their Annals, Writings, Memorials, and public Transactions, but the liberal Arts themselves, your Delight and your Glory, Gentlemen of the Uni-

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versity,

verfity, and the purfuit of hidden Truth, and the Knowledge of every Thing noble, would have been long ago extinguifhed.

We therefore can never be too grateful to thofe learned and munificent Men, who have employed fo much Labour and Money in founding Universities, and building and adorning Libraries, and fo many Manfions of Learning. Why need I mention the magnificent *Alexandrian* Library? Why the *Attalic*, Why all the *Grecian*? Why the *Roman*, either ancient or modern? But this Circumftance is highly worth your Obfervation, that the firft publick Library among the *Romans* was built in the Porch of the Temple of Liberty, by which the noble and learned * Senator, who repaired the Porch and converted

* *Afinius Pollio*, a Man of Learning, and a fhining Orator, was the firft, who, dedicating a Library, made the human Genius a public Concern. *Plin.* lib. xxxv. cap. 2. But this Library he difpofed and fixed in the Porch of the Temple of Liberty, which he accommodated in an elegant Manner for this Purpofe.

converted it into a Library, would intimate, that the Seat of Liberty only was the Seat of the Muses. To that Man, to all those, those especially, who have left us this University, who have left us so immense a Collection of Books, who have left us our Discipline in a glorious and flourishing Condition, let us ever adhere; whom we may acknowledge the Pride of their Age, the Ornament of Mankind, and the most illustrious Heroes of the World; and, indeed, always to be preferred to those Heroes, foreign ones, I mean (for our own, as is becoming, I always except) who delight in the Slaughter of Men and Destruction of Cities, and cruelly contrive the Ruin of those they govern, as well as of others; from whence however they seek Glory and Fame, and do really expect and demand to be adored with the most extravagant Veneration by all Orders of Men.

pose. The Porch of *Liberty* was dedicated on the Ides of *April*: On the Ides of *April* the *Radclivian* Library is dedicated; which might be taken for a prosperous Omen in less threatening Times.

Shall

Shall these pretend to be adored by the People? These expect us, *Oxonians*, to adore them? Who are inveterate Enemies to this celebrated University, whose Glory they envy, and to Letters themselves, which they do not understand; who could wish to plunder the antientest Monuments of this Place, to rush into our Possessions, and to convert these beautiful Edifices into Stables for Horses. How I blush, therefore, for that infamous Race of flattering Orators and Poets, who, in these heroical Ages, and in all Ages, have celebrated such Men, distinguished only for Inhumanity, and who have swelled them even into Demigods; while for my own Part, and all good Men agree in this Sentiment, I cannot, for my Soul, believe them even Men.

But what if these shining Warriors were *Alexanders*, and *Cæsars*, that is, perpetual Conquerors? Granting they were; I do not alter my Opinion. For a War, in which great Spoils and the Glory of Princes, not the Welfare of an Empire

or People was proposed ; a war, in which a flourishing State or a free City was abolished by those, whom they never had injured or provoked ; such I esteem a most iniquitous and flagitious Undertaking. What is Wickedness, if this is not ? Nay further, now that I reflect on what has been atchieved in all Parts of Europe, when I reflect on so many fortified and vanquished Cities, so many places burnt and destroyed, so many Battles and Plunders, and lastly, so many thousands of Men incessantly slaughtered, without any Hesitation I establish this as a Maxim, He, who was the first Inventor of the Art of Molding an earthen Jordan, or of weaving a wicker Basket, that Man has deserved more from all Nations, than all the Generals, (except those, who fought for their Country, like ours, whom on that Account I distinguish) I say, than all the Generals, Emperors, nay Conquerors, that now are or ever have been. Moreover, when I consider what the honoured Voice and divine Law of our Lord *Jesus Christ* commanded, methinks, these war-like

like Heroes and Lords of the Earth love nothing but themselves, fear every thing but God.

But I must now think of returning, least I should omit what I esteem the greatest of all *Radcliff's* Praises; namely, that he bestowed the very last Years of his Life, which we old Men owe to ourselves, owe to Ease and Quiet, upon his Country; and while unattracted by Ambition or the Hopes of Honours (all which he heartily despised) his public Conduct was such, that he was ever constant to the Patriot-Party, and never failed to respect the Cause of Liberty and his own Dignity. But it was then he merited most of his Countrymen, when he was chose into the Senate, and aided those Councils, which restored Peace to the Christian World, long harraressed with War, a most just and honourable Peace, and to us the most advantageous; and, for my own Part, I often congratulate myself, that I have lived in those Times, when no *Briton* need blush for our national Honour: When our Senate was uncorrupt, and

and enjoyed the highest Authority ; and was not so much the public Council of the People, as the Palladium and Protection.

For while the antient Frugality and Strictness of Manners remained among *Britons*, and a glowing Zeal for the Support of Liberty, the rest of the Cities of this Island, as if they trod in your Steps, *Oxonians*, used the utmost Foresight and Precaution in chusing Representatives; and weighed the Thing well with themselves, who, and what the Candidates were, of what Family and in what Place they were born ; in what Manner they were educated ; what was the Compass of their Genius and Extent of their Estate ; but, above all, in what Manner they were affected to the Constitution ; nor could any Man, not qualified in all these Respects, be elected, or obtain so honourable a Preference ; no one, whom Bribes or the Hopes of Bribes, the Promises or Threats of Ministers could alter, or seduce from his Duty to the Public.

But

But now how are all Things changed ! The People grown utterly corrupt shew no Tokens of Shame or Remorse ; no Sense of their original Majesty or Welfare ! who set up their Votes to Sale, and often their Oaths in as public and open a Manner as they who sell Meat or Fish in a Market. If you enquire, what is the Cause, that has so entirely altered and inverted our whole People, 'till they have quite degenerated from the Behaviour and Glory of our Ancestors, I shall answer you in one Word, *Luxury* ; *Luxury*, who descends from the Palace down to all Orders of Men, even to the very lowest, whence arises that Softness and Sloth of Temper, hardly to be met with, even in Women ; that Cruelty and Slaughter at no time to be exercised even upon foreign Enemies.

Hence, in Town and Country, Gold sways all both in common and important Affairs. Hence the Inhabitants of some Towns have become so frantic, as to place the greatest Power, and to repose the greatest Trust in Men unfaithful and ill-intentioned to their Country.

Hence

Hence those truly marvellous Patriots, who would willingly be esteemed, and, perhaps, have been esteemed, more sincere than others, more public-spirited, and superlatively eloquent, have all at once, without one Blush, altered their Looks, their Souls, their Voices, as if they had drank of the fatal Chalice of *Circe*.

Hence ——— I am inclined and ready to speak more (not so much from the Temper of an old Man, as because nothing is more delightful than speaking Truth) but I am in dread, I should be cruelly deprived of my Voice,

* *As if the Wolves had seen me first to-day.*

DRYDEN.

I mean, those detestable Informers, who have so embroiled our Affairs of late, that

* Vox quoque Moerim

Iam fugit ipsa : Lupi Moerim videre priores.

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they

they hoped to eclipse the Lustre of the University, and extinguish it in their own Infamy ; which, however, cannot be effected without the basest Perfidy. But since they have accused our glorious Vice-Chancellor, and in such an extraordinary Manner, that no kind of Punishment can be heavier, than the Accusation itself, I really do not know, whether I should re-pine at these Proceedings, or congratulate him upon them. For Fortune seems to have beset this excellent Man with so many Misfortunes from the very Beginning, that his Virtues might shine the more conspicuous. Certainly, if there is any thing, it is Adversity, that makes and manifests a great Man.

But that we may not wonder that such Men, and that all our Calumniators find Patronage, and are caressed by some Statesmen, it is worth while to consider, that both the latter and the former, tho' very different in Rank and Fortune, are every Way similar in Life and Morals. But besides, it must always happen, that
those,

those, who from their Hearts detest both liberal Learning and Virtue itself, will avowedly detest these Seats of the Muses flourishing with all Learning and Virtue. It must happen, that those, who have determined to stigmatize the Nation with the Enormities of their Actions, will first of all Attempt to calumniate this illustrious University, the Ornament and Glory of the Nation.

And to crown these Misfortunes, not only all those, who desert their Country, desert the University; not only those, who ought to be united to us by our common Studies, Duties, and Dangers, have basely deserted our Cause; but even many others, cherished in the very Bosom of our fostering Mother, and who thrive by the daily Nourishment she yields, have, in hopes of arriving at Wealth and Preferment, with a *Nero*-like Temper meditated her Destruction: Who (Pests of Society!) contrive that the Congratulations and Addresses, we offer as customary Things, or to do our Duty, or to make

our Court, should lose their Effect, should be rejected, nay looked upon as criminal: Who, lastly, with their Councils, Speeches, Falshoods and ridiculous Epistles inflame and encrease the Guilt and Madness of all those, who bear us open or secret Hatred.

But it would take up too much Time to complain of the Depravity and the Injuries of these Men, and to give a Loose to my Grief. In those Books, therefore, in which I intend to vindicate the University, (give me but Life,) I shall more carefully and freely animadvert upon those bitter Enemies and Detractors of ours. In which I shall perform the Part of a generous Person, certainly of an *Oxonian*; moreover, I am in hopes it will be acceptable and pleasing to the Divine Being. For I deem those, who, while they condemn all moral and human Learning, and at the same Time have dared to violate the Fame and Reputation of the very best Men with the most impudent Lies and Villainy, I deem

deem such Persons not so much the Enemies of Men, as of God himself.

But if any are now present, to whose *politer Ears* this Oration may seem unreasonable, or who fancy it wanders from its proper Course, (by the by, is it ever wandering to promote the Cause of the Public, or the Cause of the University) those Gentlemen may take Notice, that I was of Opinion these Reflections ought not to be passed over ; because whatever Devices, either the Ambition of some, or the Flattery of thers, or the Corruption of a venal People, have contrived ; you, illustrious Gentlemen, you, *Radcliff's* Executors, have already shewn your Piety, Wisdom, and Glory, in opposing them all ; as you will always shew your Firmness and Resolution by opposing them for the Time to come.

But if neither you nor your Friends have obtained Success by your Suffrages, your Complaints, your Debates, your Virtue or Authority, this should not be attributed

buted to our present august Rulers, (for whom I entertain the profoundest Veneration) but to these worst of Times, to the Manners and Vices of the Age, and to a certain sinister Fate.

For whether the Fury and Fortune of foreign Enemies, or State-Craft, has inverted all Things ; or whether any other Men have held the Reigns of Government with such Temerity and Rashness, that they have first inflamed and then ravaged our World ; which cannot now be revived or renewed by any Scheme, not by the wisest, not by all, not, indeed, by all the Power of Man. God only can rescue us from so many Evils, and deliver us from such great Calamity and Ruin.

Wherefore, since we are reduced to that Pass, that nothing but Prayers and Supplications are like to retrieve our Affairs or to succour us ; and that I may conclude my Speech in the honestest manner, and that you may afford a public and shining Instance

Instance of your Piety, let us take Refuge in them *.

RESTORE, (this Expression of mine, for I avow it, is, I know, cavil'd at by weak and

* This Oration was so far advanced in the Press, when I received an afflicting Account, that the most excellent

Sir WATKIN WILLIAMS WYNNE

(whose venerable Name is inscribed in the Beginning of this little Work, and whom you, Dr. Radcliff's Executors, have always esteemed as the Sharer of your Councils, of your Honours, and of all your Affairs) had expired, and by a sudden and shocking Death.

Heavens! what a Man! how glorious! alas! how mortal!

How bright an Example of antient Piety! how vigilant an Assertor of public Liberty! how able and ready a Defender and Patron of our University! who was one of the few (the very few, such is the Degeneracy of the Age) who follow Virtue, even for the Sake of Virtue; and rejected the Trappings of courtly Splendour, and all Titles, while equal to the highest. All Titles but those he could not possibly reject; which the justest Voice of the People had

and malevolent Persons, but still it shall be repeated) *Restore* to us our *Astræa*, or Justice herself, whatever Name she delights to hear ; not indeed the fabulous Lady, but the Christian Virgin, if not the Parent,

had bestowed, as the Reward of transcendant Merit, and the Sentence of the greatest Patriots confirmed. Indeed, this illustrious Senator had persevered with a Magnanimity and Conduct so amazing, and so perpetual an Affiduity in Behalf of the Constitution (what Happiness could we then despair of ?) that he was justly called the Parent of Liberty, and Father of his Country. He had persevered to exercise the most extraordinary Gifts of Nature and Genius, to live with Steadiness and with Elegance, and to display the most amiable Morals (for never was any one more honest, more chaste, more agreeable, more ingenuous, more liberal) that he was not so much the Ornament of one Climate, or of one Nation, as of the human Species : We shall the less wonder, if he attained so great a Degree of Authority and Fame, and soar'd to such a Point of Perfection, while a private Man, that, to speak the Truth, he is not rival'd by any of our Governors, of our Bishops, or of our Princes.

Heavens ! what a Man ! how glorious ! alas ! how mortal !

Whom

Parent, certainly the Guardian of all the Virtues.

RESTORE, at the same time, him the great Genius of *Britain*, (whether he is the Messenger or the very Spirit of God) the firmest Guard of Liberty and Religion ;
 G and

Whom his Family require with Anxiety, as a kind Master ! his Guests as an hospitable Host ! I as the dearest Friend ! how constant, easy, and chearful ! whose Death shall ever be deplored, whose Praises shall ever be celebrated, and whose Memory shall ever be sacred to me : to me ? I will say to all Men of all Ranks, from the very highest to the very lowest. For, indeed, all his Life, scarce any one was an Enemy to him, who was not in the highest Degree an Enemy to this Community, and to the British Name ; scarce any one will rejoice in his Death, who is not the most flagitious of Mankind, and so barbarous and inhuman, as to rejoice in the Ruin of all Beings, and the Destruction of the whole Universe. But yet one Comfort remains to allay (if any Thing can allay mine and the publick Grief) that this excellent Patriot departed in the full Enjoyment of Fame, and with the heart-felt Pleasure of the clearest Conscience ; happy too
 (possessing

and let him banish into Exile, (into perpetual Exile) from among our Countrymen all barbarous Wars, Slaughters, Rapines, Years of Pestilence, haughty Usurpations, infamous Informers, and every Evil.

RESTORE and prosper him, that the Common-wealth may revive, Faith be recall'd, Peace established, Laws ordained, just, honest, salutary, useful Laws, to deter the Abandoned, restrain Armies, favour the Learned, spare the Imprudent, relieve the Poor, delight all ; by delivering all at length from the Perils of Law, that no ingenuous Subject, innocent, uncondemned

(possessing all the Means of Virtue and Content) even to the last Hour of Life: and, that God seemed to rescue him, who daily and piously worship'd God, from imminent Dangers, and to place him as it were in a safe and pleasant Harbour ; that he who constantly denied to be a Fautor of the most enormous Vices, might no longer be a Spectator of them.

ed, may ever more be tormented, fined, plundered*.

ERSTORE and prosper him, that, while nothing can appear more illustrious than this Meeting, our other Countrymen, those especially who frequent the Court or the Senate, may resemble these † glorious Patriots, may resemble you, Gentlemen of the University, though not in Brightness of Genius and Learning, yet in Probity and Diligence, yet in Magnani-

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mity

* O! ever renowned Prince! the glorious and wise Monarch of *Prussia*! who, interposing his Authority, abolish'd all licentious Litigations; and who delivered his People and all who sought his Protection, from those Pests of Mankind, who, by Heavens, are more to be dreaded, than Armies of Barbarians, or those innumerable Swarms of Locusts, that are now laying waste the Fields of *Germany*.

† The Theatre was extreamly full, and a great many of the worthiest Noblemen, and Senators were present; who received the honorary Degrees of Doctors in the Civil Law, on Account of their singular Love for their Country.

mity and Love of Liberty! That all the fair Sex may resemble this brilliant Circle of Ladies, though not in Form and Beauty, yet in Virtue and Modesty, yet in Politeness of Dress, yet in Elegancy of Manners! That then the whole People may be laborious and temperate, and may agree at last with the Councils of good Men, in preserving the Majesty of Empire. And that our *Britannia* may be less defended by her beautiful and well-fortified Fleets, (although, I hope, these may always support our Wars) than by the Virtue and Bravery of her Inhabitants, and by Wisdom in the Conduct of public Affairs.

RESTORE and prosper him, that this genial University may flourish through every Age, even till nothing is more flourishing over the whole Earth, nothing more transcendant! That our young men may be modest, frugal, studious; our old Men learned, grave, honest! and neither the Latter nor the Former corruptable by false Tenets, or the Love of Riches or Honours! That this learned Senate may always preserve the same Tenour of Conduct,

duct, and the same laudable Constancy ; and that, abhorring every Species, every base and wicked Species of Adulation, it may resolve upon nothing, either thro' evil Times, or evil Example, unworthy good and ingenuous Subjects ! That whenever our noble and excellent Chancellor shall depart (long hence, I hope) we may not see in his Place a Master, haughty, unmerciful, avaricious, illiterate, impious ; but an easy and benign Ruler, devoted to Letters from his Childhood, solicitous for our Affairs above all others, and though sprung from an illustrious Race, yet surpassing the Glories of his Race in Virtue and Morals ! That the Office of Vice-chancellor may be always conferred upon a Man, holy, social, learned, resolute (such as presides to Day) who can perform his Duty becomingly, and sustain and preserve the University's Dignity and his own ! That, the Designs of pernicious Men being frustrated, no one may be invested with such Power, in this Place or any other, or possess so destructive a Disposition, as to inflict heavier

vier Grievances, or too mighty Burthens ;
 nor dare to violate our Laws himself, or
 exhort others to violate them ! That last-
 ly no Man may sollicit or aspire to Aca-
 demic Honours, but one, who cherishes
 Faith, Discipline, Liberality, Learning,
 and learned Men ; but one, who, while
 he influences the Government, and di-
 rects the Affairs of the Nation, is, at
 the same Time, principally careful to
 augment and to adorn our *Oxonia* with all
*good Offices and Benefits.**

* RESTORE and prosper him, that it may be no
 Crime to have translated this forbidden Oration ;
 and that our great Author may have the Pleasure of
 forgiving his disobedient, yet honest, Translator.



F I N I S.

